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14MAR03 E792350-1 C90136
P01/7700 0.00-0305876.5

Request for grant of a patent

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The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
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NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

CASE NO 33 (A)

2. Patent application number
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0305876.5

14 MAR 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant *(underline all surnames)*

AVIDEX LTD
57C MILTON PARK,
ABINGDON,
OXFORDSHIRE
OX14 4RX

Patents ADP number *(if you know it)*

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation ENGLAND

8571242001

4. Title of the invention

IMMUNO INHIBITORY HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS

5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)*

MR ALAN WALLS
AVIDEX LTD,
57C MILTON PARK,
ABINGDON,
OXFORDSHIRE
OX14 4RX

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent *(including the postcode)*

Patents ADP number *(if you know it)*

8480618001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and *(if you know it)* the or each application number

Country	Priority application number *(if you know it)*	Date of filing *(day / month / year)*

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application	Date of filing *(day / month / year)*

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? *(Answer 'Yes' if:*

a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d))

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 23 (TWENTY THREE)

Claim(s) 3 (THREE)

Abstract 0 (ZERO)

Drawing(s) 0 (ZERO)

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent *(Patents Form 7/77)*

Request for preliminary examination and search *(Patents Form 9/77)*

Request for substantive examination *(Patents Form 10/77)*

Any other documents *(please specify)*

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature Alan Walls Date 14/3/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom MR. MARTIN GREEN (01235) 438612

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Immuno Inhibitory Heterocyclic Compounds

The present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, to methods for their preparation, to compositions containing them, and to methods and use for clinical treatment of medical conditions which may benefit from immunomodulation, e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, asthma, transplantation, systemic lupus erythematosis and psoriasis. More particularly the present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, which are CD80 antagonists capable of inhibiting the interactions between CD80 and CD28.

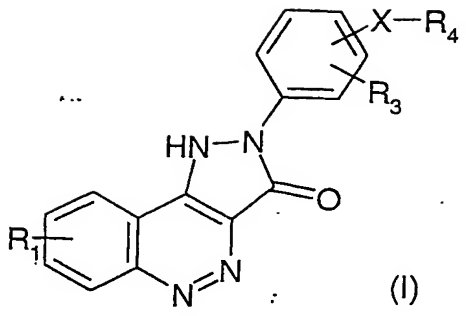
Background to the Invention

The immune system possesses the ability to control the homeostasis between the activation and inactivation of lymphocytes through various regulatory mechanisms during and after an immune response. Among these are mechanisms that specifically inhibit and/or turn off an immune response. Thus, when an antigen is presented by MHC molecules to the T-cell receptor, the T-cells become properly activated only in the presence of additional co-stimulatory signals. In the absence of these accessory signals there is no lymphocyte activation and either a state of functional inactivation termed anergy or tolerance is induced, or the T-cell is specifically deleted by apoptosis.

One such co-stimulatory signal involves interaction of CD80 on specialised antigen-presenting cells with CD28 on T-cells, and this signal has been demonstrated to be essential for full T-cell activation. (Lenschow *et al.* (1996) *Annu. Rev. Immunol.*, **14**, 233-258). It would therefore be desirable to provide compounds which inhibit this CD80/CD28 interaction.

Detailed Description of the Invention

According to the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:



(I)

wherein

R_1 and R_3 independently represent H; F; Cl; Br; $-NO_2$; -CN; C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by F or Cl; or C_1-C_6 alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester thereof, or $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$, $-NHC(=O)NR_7R_6$ or $-NHC(=S)NR_7R_6$ wherein

R_6 represents H, or a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m$-Q wherein

m is 0 or 1

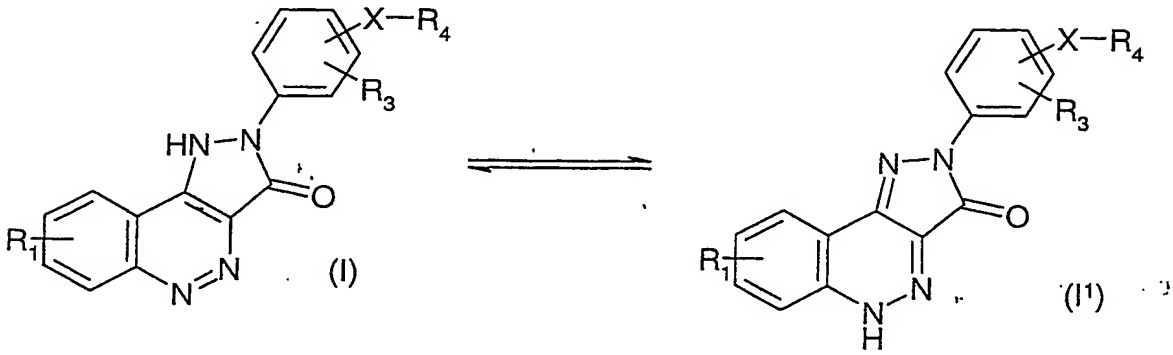
Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight or branched C_1-C_{12} alkylene, or C_2-C_{12} alkenylene, or C_2-C_{12} alkynylene radical or a divalent C_3-C_{12} carbocyclic radical, any of which radicals may be interrupted by one or more –O-, -S- or $-N(R_8)$- radicals wherein R_8 represents H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_4 alkynyl, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and

Q represents H; $-CF_3$; -OH; -SH; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different, or form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached; an ester group; or an optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclic group; and

R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

X represents a bond or a divalent radical of formula $-(Z)_n-(Alk)-$ or $-(Alk)-(Z)_n-$ wherein Z represents –O-, -S- or –NH-, Alk is as defined in relation to R_6 and n is 0 or 1.

Compounds (I) may exist in the form of tautomers (I^1):



(I) (I^1)

Hereafter, the compounds of the invention may be represented and referred to in either tautomeric form (I), and it is to be understood that any and all tautomeric forms of structure (I), in particular (I^1), are included in the invention.

Compounds of general formula (I) are CD80 antagonists. They inhibit the interaction between CD80 and CD28 and thus the activation of T cells, thereby modulating the immune response.

Accordingly the invention also includes:

(i) a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

(ii) the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation,.

(iii) a method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an

immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof.

(iv) a pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

Conditions which benefit from immunomodulation include:

Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis
Adrenal insufficiency.
Allergic angiitis and granulomatosis
Amylodosis
Ankylosing spondylitis
Asthma
Autoimmune Addison's disease
Autoimmune alopecia
Autoimmune chronic active hepatitis
Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia
Autoimmune Neutrogena
Autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura
Behçet's disease
Cerebellar degeneration
Chronic active hepatitis
Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy
Chronic neuropathy with monoclonal gammopathy
Classic polyarteritis nodosa
Congenital adrenal hyperplasia
Cryopathies
Dermatitis herpetiformis
Diabetes
Eaton-Lambert myasthenic syndrome
Encephalomyelitis
Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
Erythema nodosa

Gluten-sensitive enteropathy
Goodpasture's syndrome
Guillain-Barre syndrome
Hashimoto's thyroiditis
Hyperthyroidism
Idiopathic hemachromatosis
Idiopathic membranous glomerulonephritis
Isolated vasculitis of the central nervous system
Kawasaki's disease
Minimal change renal disease
Miscellaneous vasculitides
Mixed connective tissue disease
Multifocal motor neuropathy with conduction block
Multiple sclerosis
Myasthenia gravis
Opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome
Pemphigoid
Pemphigus
pernicious anaemia
Polymyositis/dermatomyositis
Post-infective arthritides
Primary biliary sclerosis
Psoriasis
Reactive arthritides
Reiter's disease
Retinopathy
Rheumatoid arthritis
Sclerosing cholangitis
Sjögren's syndrome
Stiff-man syndrome
Subacute thyroiditis
Systemic lupus erythematosis
Systemic necrotizing vasculitides
Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma)

Takayasu's arteritis
Temporal arteritis
Thromboangiitis obliterans
Type I and type II autoimmune polyglandular syndrome
Ulcerative colitis
Uveitis
Wegener's granulomatosis

As used herein, the term "ester" refers to a group of the form –COOR, wherein R is a radical notionally derived from the alcohol ROH. Examples of ester groups include the physiologically hydrolysable esters such as the methyl, ethyl, n- and iso-propyl, n-, sec- and tert-butyl, and benzyl esters.

As used herein the term "alkylene" refers to a straight or branched alkyl chain having two unsatisfied valencies, for example $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_2CH_3)CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, and $-C(CH_3)_3$.

As used herein the term "alkenylene" refers to a straight or branched alkenyl chain having two unsatisfied valencies, for example $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C(CH_3)=CH-$, and $-CH(CH_2CH_3)CH=CHCH_2-$.

As used herein the term "alkynylene" refers to a straight or branched alkynyl chain having two unsatisfied valencies, for example $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2C\equiv C-$, and $-CH(CH_2CH_3)C\equiv CCH_2-$.

Unless otherwise specified in the context in which it occurs, the term "substituted" as applied to any moiety herein means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which independently may be (C_1-C_6)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy (including the special case where a ring is substituted on adjacent ring C atoms by alkylenedioxy such as methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy), trifluoromethoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, phenyl,

benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, oxo, -COOH, $-SO_2OH$, $-CONH_2$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-COR^A$, $-COOR^A$, $-SO_2OR^A$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHSO_2R^A$, $-CONHR^A$, $-SO_2NHR^A$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-CONR^AR^B$ or $-SO_2NR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group, a $(C_3 - C_7)$ cycloalkyl group or $C_2 - C_6$ alkoxy group, or R^A and R^B form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached. In the case where "substituted" means substituted by phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, or benzyloxy, the phenyl ring thereof may itself be substituted with any of the foregoing, except phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, or benzyloxy.

As used herein the term "aryl" refers to a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic carbocyclic aromatic radical, and to two such radicals covalently linked to each other, Illustrative of such radicals are phenyl, biphenyl and napthyl.

As used herein the unqualified term "carbocyclyl" or "carbocyclic" includes aryl, cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl and refers to a ring system (monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic) whose ring atoms are all carbon.

As used herein the unqualified term "cycloalkyl" refers to a carbocyclic ring system which contains only single bonds between ring carbons.

As used herein the unqualified term "cycloalkenyl" refers to a carbocyclic ring system which contains at least one double bond between a pair of ring carbons.

As used herein the term "heteroaryl" refers to a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic aromatic radical containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N and O. Illustrative of such radicals are thienyl, benzthienyl, furyl, benzfuryl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiazolyl, benzthiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, benztriazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolyl and indazolyl.

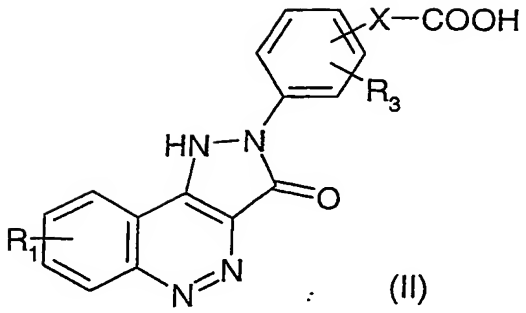
As used herein the unqualified term "heterocyclyl" or "heterocyclic" includes "heteroaryl" as defined above, and in particular means a mono-, bi- or tri-cyclic non-aromatic radical containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N and O, and to groups consisting of a monocyclic non-aromatic radical containing one or more such heteroatoms which is covalently linked to another such radical or to a monocyclic carbocyclic radical. Illustrative of such radicals are pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl, piperidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrimidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, indolyl, morpholinyl, benzfuranyl, pyranyl, isoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, methylenedioxyphenyl, ethylenedioxyphenyl, maleimido and succinimido groups.

Some compounds of the invention contain one or more chiral centres because of the presence of asymmetric carbon atoms. The presence of asymmetric carbon atoms gives rise to stereoisomers or diastereoisomers with R or S stereochemistry at each chiral centre. The invention includes all such stereoisomers and diastereoisomers and mixtures thereof.

Salts of salt forming compounds of the invention include physiologically acceptable acid addition salts for example hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, methane sulphonates, p-toluenesulphonates, phosphates, acetates, citrates, succinates, lactates, tartrates, fumarates and maleates; and base addition salts, for example sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium salts.

Methods

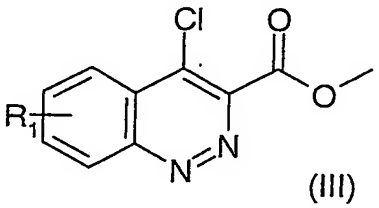
Compounds of the invention wherein R_4 represents an amide group $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$ may be prepared by reaction of the appropriate amine HNR_6R_7 with a compound of formula (II) to amidate the carboxylic acid group:



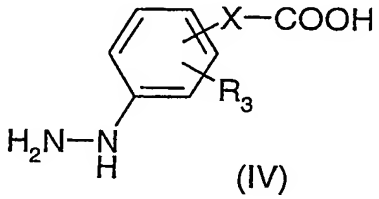
(II)

the symbols R_1, R_3, X, R_6 and R_7 being as defined in relation to formula (I) above.

Compounds (II) (ie compounds (I) of the invention wherein R_4 is a carboxylic acid group) may be prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (III) with a hydrazine of formula (IV):

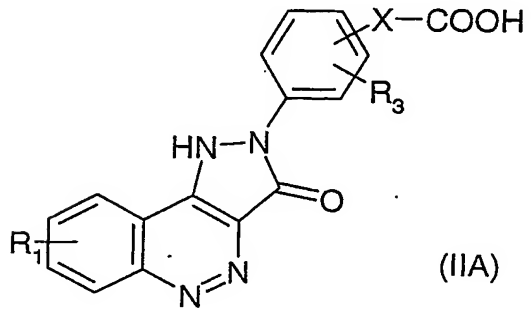


(III)

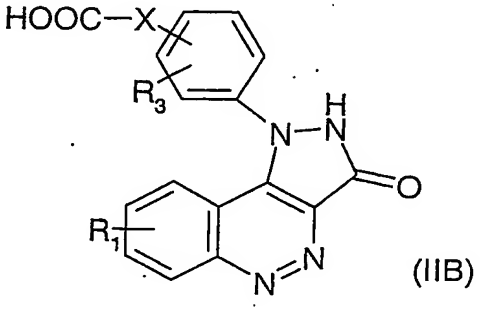


(IV)

This reaction may result in the preparation of a mixture of the position isomers (IIA) and (IIB):



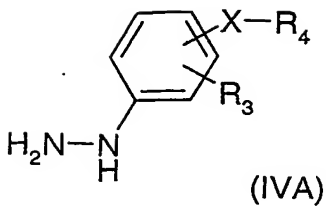
(IIA)



(IIB)

from which the desired isomer (IIA) may be separated.

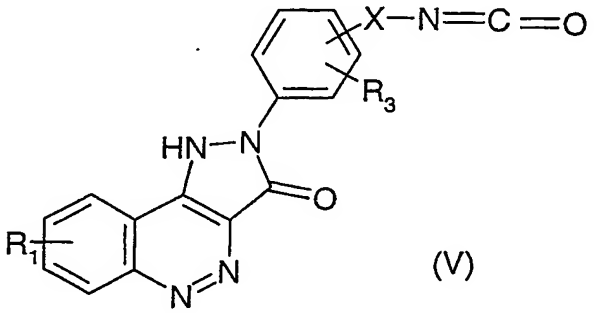
Compounds (I) wherein R_4 is an ester group may also be prepared from intermediate (III) by reaction with the appropriate hydrazine (IVA)



(IVA)

wherein R_4 is an ester group. Again the reaction may result in a mixture of the ester analogues of the carboxylic acids (IIA) and (IIB), from which the desired ester isomer (I) may be separated. Alternatively, the carboxylic acid compound (II) may simply be esterified.

Compounds (I) wherein R_4 is a "reverse amide" group $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$ may be prepared by Curtius rearrangement (see Ninomiya, K.; Shioiri, T.; Yamada, S. Tetrahedron (1974), 30(14), 2151-7) of the carboxylic acid (II) to the isocyanate (V)



(V)

followed by hydrolysis of the isocyanate group to an amino group and acylation of the amino group with, for example, the acid chloride $Cl-C(=O)R_6$. In cases where R_7 is not hydrogen, the R_7 substituent may be introduced after the isocyanate reduction step or after the acylation step.

Compounds (I) wherein R_4 is a urea group $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ or thiourea group $-NHC(=S)NHR_6$ may also be prepared from the isocyanate (V) or the corresponding isothiocyanate by reaction with the appropriate amine H_2NR_6.

Compounds (I) wherein R_4 is a carbamate group $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$ may be prepared by the reaction of the isocyanate with an appropriate alcohol R_6OH.

Further details of the synthetic methods for the preparation of compounds (I) of the invention, and intermediates such as (III), may be found in the examples herein.

In the compounds of the invention:

R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester thereof, or $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$ or $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$, all as defined above.

When R_4 is an ester group, examples include those of formula –COOR wherein R is methyl, ethyl n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl, or benzyl ester.

R_6, when present, represents H, or a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m-Q$ wherein m, Alk and Q being as defined above. When m is 1, Alk may be, for example a straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkylene radical, such as $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, and $-CH_2CH(CH_3)CH_2-$. Alk may also be, for example, a divalent cyclopropylene, cyclopentylene or cyclohexylene radical. The radical Alk may be optionally substituted by, for example, OH, oxo, CF_3, methoxy or ethoxy. The radical Alk may optionally contain a hetero atom, for example in the form of an ether, thioether or amino linkage.

The group Q may represent, for example, hydrogen; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different and selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or isopropyl or tert-butyl; an ester group for example a methyl, ethyl or benzyl ester; or an optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclic group, for example phenyl, phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, furyl, thienyl, piperidyl, or piperazinyl group.

R_7 when present represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl, for example methyl, ethyl n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl; or when taken together with the

atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms;

R_1 may be, for example, H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy. Currently it is preferred that R_1 is H, F, or Cl;

R_3 may be, for example, H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy. Currently it is preferred that R_3 is H, F, or Cl;

X may be, for example a bond, or a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ radical. A bond is presently preferred.

Specific compounds of the invention include those of the Examples herein.

As mentioned above, the invention includes pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier. In such compositions, it will be understood that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination and the cause and severity of the particular disease undergoing therapy. Optimum dose levels and frequency of dosing will be determined by clinical trial.

The compounds with which the invention is concerned may be prepared for administration by any route consistent with their pharmacokinetic properties. The orally administrable compositions may be in the form of tablets, capsules, powders, granules, lozenges, liquid or gel preparations, such as oral, topical, or sterile parenteral solutions or suspensions. Tablets and capsules for oral administration may be in unit dose presentation form, and may contain conventional excipients such as binding agents, for example syrup, acacia, gelatin, sorbitol, tragacanth, or polyvinyl-pyrrolidone; fillers for example

lactose, sugar, maize-starch, calcium phosphate, sorbitol or glycine; tabletting lubricant, for example magnesium stearate, talc, polyethylene glycol or silica; disintegrants for example potato starch, or acceptable wetting agents such as sodium lauryl sulphate. The tablets may be coated according to methods well known in normal pharmaceutical practice. Oral liquid preparations may be in the form of, for example, aqueous or oily suspensions, solutions, emulsions, syrups or elixirs, or may be presented as a dry product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may contain conventional additives such as suspending agents, for example sorbitol, syrup, methyl cellulose, glucose syrup, gelatin hydrogenated edible fats; emulsifying agents, for example lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia; non-aqueous vehicles (which may include edible oils), for example almond oil, fractionated coconut oil, oily esters such as glycerine, propylene glycol, or ethyl alcohol; preservatives, for example methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoate or sorbic acid, and if desired conventional flavouring or colouring agents.

For topical application to the skin, the drug may be made up into a cream, lotion or ointment. Cream or ointment formulations which may be used for the drug are conventional formulations well known in the art, for example as described in standard textbooks of pharmaceutics such as the British Pharmacopoeia.

For topical application to the eye, the drug may be made up into a solution or suspension in a suitable sterile aqueous or non aqueous vehicle. Additives, for instance buffers such as sodium metabisulphite or disodium edeate; preservatives including bactericidal and fungicidal agents such as phenyl mercuric acetate or nitrate, benzalkonium chloride or chlorhexidine, and thickening agents such as hypromellose may also be included.

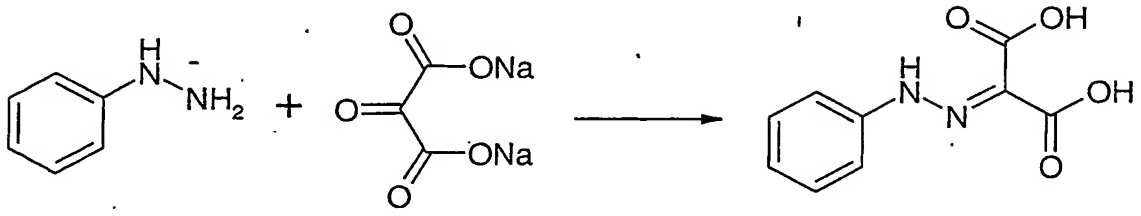
The active ingredient may also be administered parenterally in a sterile medium. Depending on the vehicle and concentration used, the drug can either be suspended or dissolved in the vehicle. Advantageously, adjuvants such as a local anaesthetic, preservative and buffering agents can be dissolved in the vehicle.

Embodiments of the invention are described in the following non-limiting Examples:

Example 1

Step 1

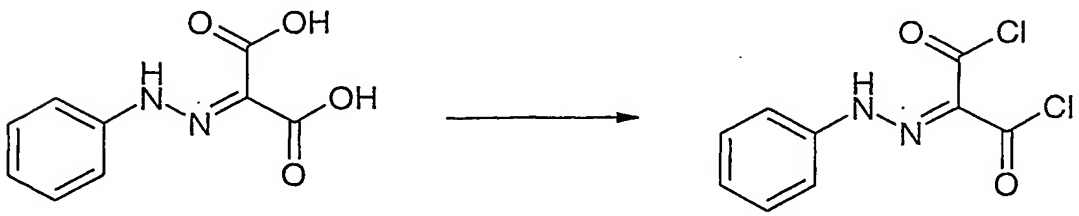
Preparation of 2-(phenyl-hydrazono)-malonic acid:



Sodium mesoxalate monohydrate (5.00 g, 27.8 mmol) was dissolved in 1 M hydrochloric acid (50 ml) to give a colourless cloudy solution. Phenylhydrazine (3.00 g, 2.72 ml, 27.8 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature to the stirred mixture. A yellow precipitate formed, was collected by filtration after 90 min and washed with water (50 ml). The filter cake was triturated with ethyl acetate / hexane [1:1], filtered and dried under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a yellow powder (4.74 g, 22.7 mmol, 82%). LCMS: m/z 207 $[M-H]^+$.

Step 2

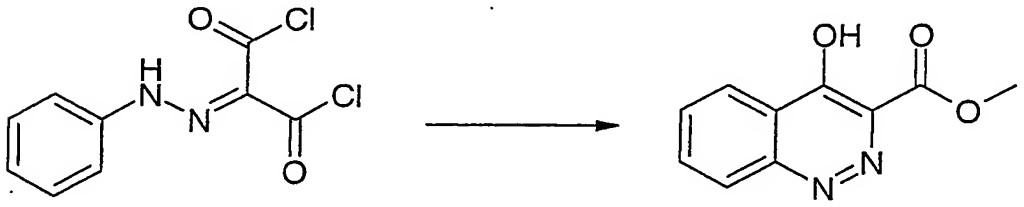
Preparation of 2-(Phenyl-hydrazono)-propanedioyl dichloride



2-(Phenyl-hydrazono)-malonic acid (1.00 g, 4.80 mmol) was mixed under inert atmosphere with dry chloroform (15 ml) to give a yellow suspension. The mixture was stirred at room temperature and phosphorus pentachloride (2.19 g, 10.5 mmol) was added portionwise. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1.5 h to give a green solution. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with hexane (15 ml). A green precipitate formed, was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a green powder (645 mg, 2.63 mmol, 53%).

Step 3

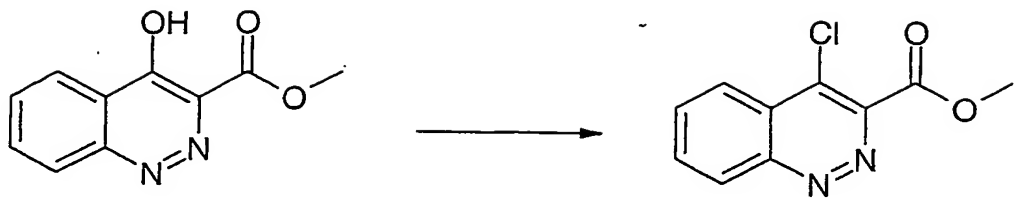
Preparation of methyl 4-hydroxycinnoline-3-carboxylate:



2-(Phenyl-hydrazono)-propanedioyl dichloride (2.45 g, 0.01 mmol) was mixed under inert atmosphere with 1,2-dichloroethane (15 ml) to give a yellow suspension. Titanium tetrachloride (1.89 g, 1.09 ml) was added dropwise to form a brown solution. The mixture was heated to reflux overnight, cooled to room temperature and quenched dropwise with methanol (15 ml). Stirring was continued for 30 min and volatiles were removed under vacuum. Water (100 ml) was added and the obtained suspension was extracted with *n*-butanol (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with water (2 x 20 ml) and concentrated under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a green solid (1.04 g, 5.10 mmol, 51%). LCMS: m/z 205 $[M+H]^+$.

Step 4

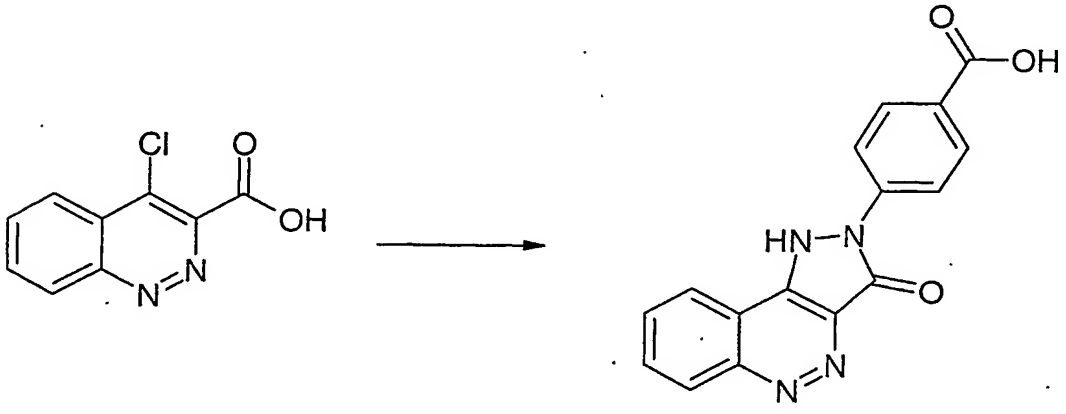
Preparation of methyl 4-chlorocinnoline-3-carboxylate:



Thionyl chloride (8.15 g, 5 ml) was added dropwise under inert atmosphere to methyl 4-hydroxycinnoline-3-carboxylate (0.50 g, 2.45 mmol). The mixture was heated to reflux for 1.5 h, cooled to room temperature and excess thionyl chloride was removed under vacuum. Toluene (5 ml) was added to the residue. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solids were collected by filtration and dried under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a brown solid (248 mg, 1.11 mmol, 45%). LCMS: m/z 223 $[M+H]^+$.

Step 5

Preparation of 4-(3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)benzoic acid:

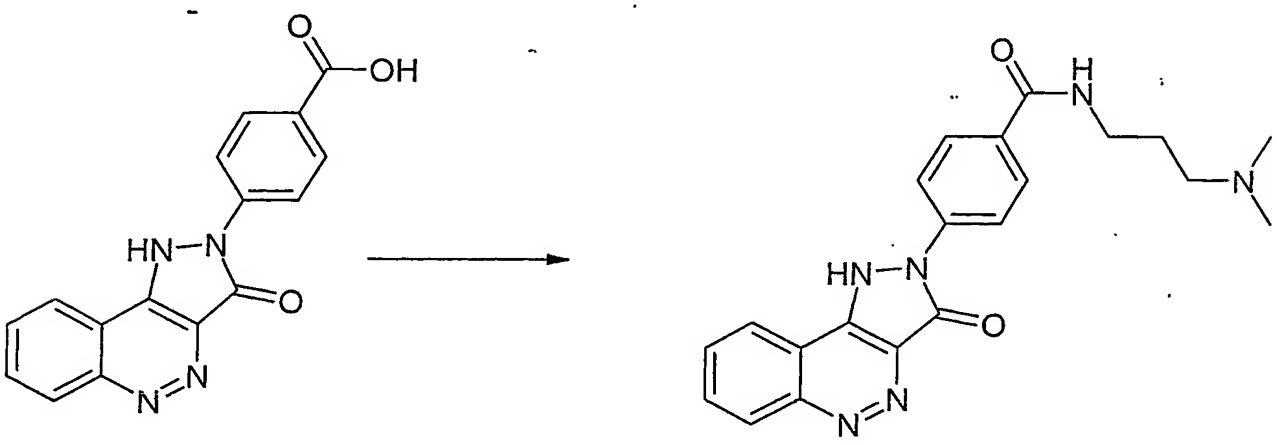


4-Hydrazinobenzoic acid (68.4 mg, 0.45 mmol) was mixed at room temperature with ethanol (5 ml) to give a cream-coloured suspension. Methyl 4-chlorocinnoline-3-carboxylate (100 mg, 0.45 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated to 45-50°C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under vacuum. Ethyl acetate (10 ml) was added to the residue. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solids were collected by filtration and dried under

vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a brown powder (120 mg, 0.39 mmol, 86%). LCMS: m/z 307 $[M+H]^+$. NMR [DMSO-d_6]: δ =; 7.68-7.74 (m, 1 H_{aryl}); 7.84.(d, J = 3.77 Hz, 2 H_{aryl}); 8.07 (d, J = 8.85 Hz, 2 H_{aryl}); 8.23 (d, J = 7.92 Hz, 1 H_{aryl}); 8.37 (d, J = 8.85 Hz, 2 H_{aryl}).

Example 2

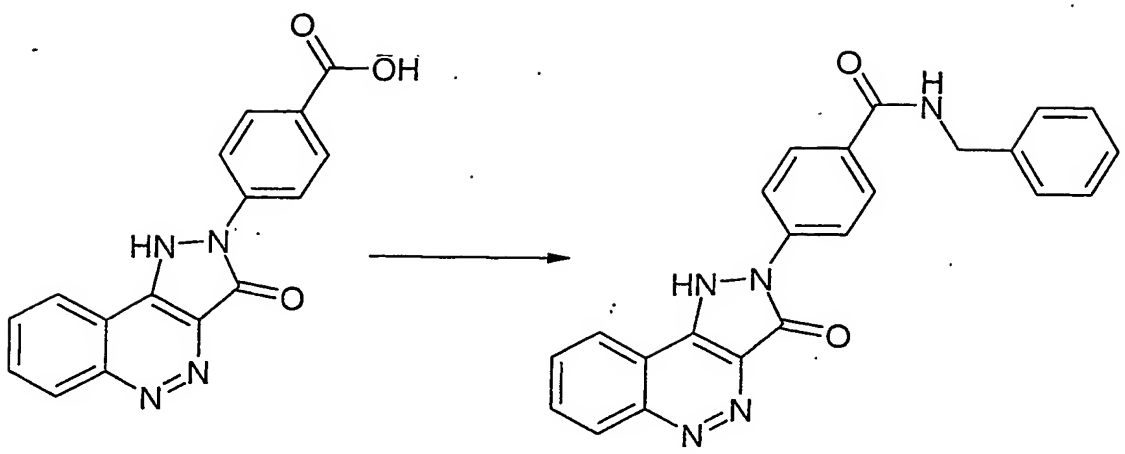
Preparation of *N*-[3-dimethylamino-propyl]-4-(3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)-benzamide:



4-(3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)benzoic acid (25 mg, 0.08 mmol) was mixed with dimethyl formamide (DMF) (1 ml). Diisopropylethylamine (28 µl, 0.16 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminopropylamine (8.2 mg, 10.0 µl, 0.09 mmol) were added followed by [(Benzotriazol-1-yloxy)-dimethylamino-methylene]-dimethyl-ammonium; hexafluoro phosphate (HBTU) (30.3 mg, 0.08 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The product was purified by preparative HPLC. The title compound was isolated as a red solid (12.6 mg, 0.032 mmol, 40%). LCMS: m/z 391 $[M+H]^+$.

Example 3

Preparation of *N*-benzyl-4-(3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)-benzamide:

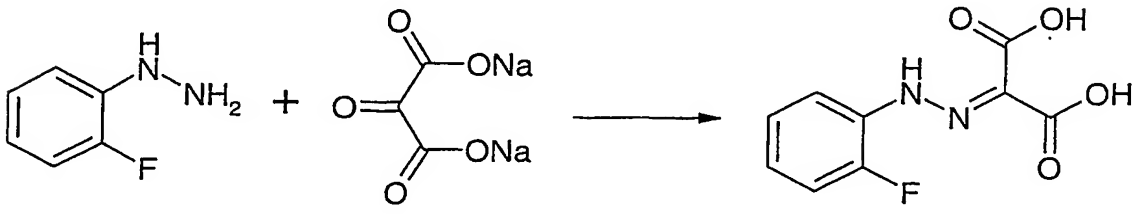


4-(3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)benzoic acid (52 mg, 0.17 mmol) was mixed with DMF (2 ml). Diisopropylethylamine (22 mg, 29 µl, 0.17 mmol) and benzylamine (18.2 mg, 18.6 µl, 0.17 mmol) were added followed by HBTU (64.5 mg, 0.17 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The product was purified by preparative HPLC. The title compound was isolated as a red solid (6.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10%). LCMS: m/z 396 $[M+H]^+$.

Example 4

Step 1

Preparation of 2-[(2-Fluorophenyl)hydrazono]malonic acid:

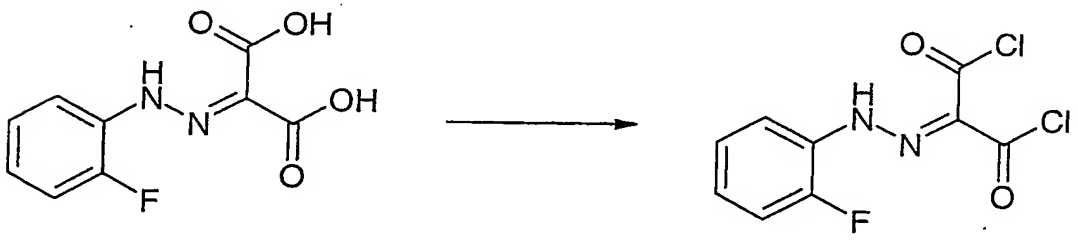


Sodium mesoxalate monohydrate (2.21 g, 12.3 mmol) was dissolved in 1 M hydrochloric acid (50 ml) to give a colourless cloudy solution. 2-Fluoro-phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (2.00 g, 12.3 mmol) was added portionwise at room temperature to the stirred mixture. A yellow precipitate formed, the

mixture was diluted with water (50 ml) and stirring continued overnight. Ethyl acetate (150 ml) was added, the phases were mixed vigorously until the solids had dissolved. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was washed with ethyl acetate (50 ml). The combined organic phases were dried over magnesium sulphate, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a yellow powder (2.55 g, 11.7 mmol, 92%). LCMS: m/z 227 $[M-H]^+$.

Step 2

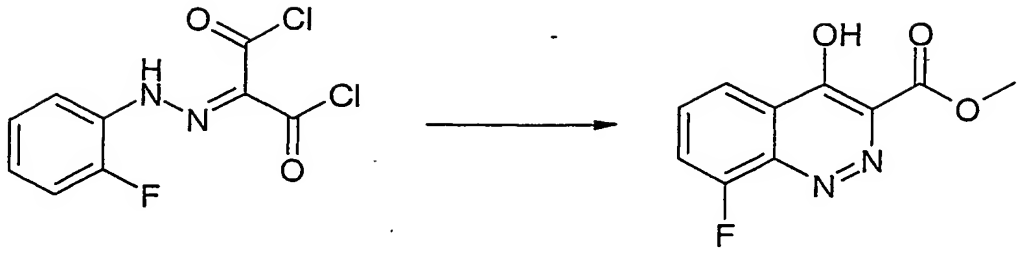
Preparation of 2-[(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-hydrazono]-propanedioyl dichloride:



2-(2-Fluorophenylhydrazono)malonic acid (1.33 g, 5.88 mmol) was mixed under inert atmosphere with dry chloroform (20 ml) to give a yellow suspension. The mixture was stirred at room temperature and phosphorus pentachloride (2.69 g, 12.9 mmol) was added portionwise. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h to give a dark yellow solution. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under vacuum until precipitation occurred. The solids were collected by filtration, washed with hexane (30 ml) and dried under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a yellow powder (760 mg, 2.89 mmol, 49%).

Step 3

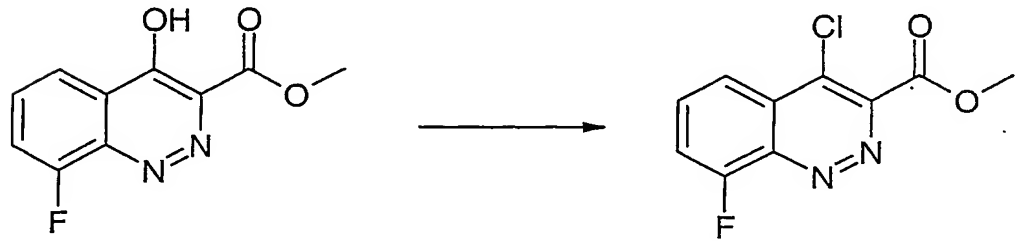
Preparation of methyl 8-fluoro-4-hydroxycinnoline-3-carboxylate:



2-[(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-hydrazono]-propanedioyl dichloride (0.76 g, 2.89 mmol) was mixed under inert atmosphere with 1,2-dichloroethane (15 ml) to give a yellow suspension. Titanium tetrachloride (1.10 g, 0.64 ml) was added dropwise to form a brown solution. The mixture was heated to reflux overnight. Further titanium tetrachloride (1.10 g, 0.64 ml) was added and heating continued for 48 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched dropwise with methanol (15 ml). Stirring was continued for 30 min and volatiles were removed under vacuum. Water (100 ml) was added and the obtained suspension was extracted with *n*-butanol (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with water (2 x 20 ml) and concentrated under vacuum. The title compound was isolated as a green solid (1.04 g, 5.10 mmol, 51%). LCMS: m/z 205 $[M+H]^+$.

Step 4

Preparation of methyl 4-chloro-8-fluorocinnoline-3-carboxylate:

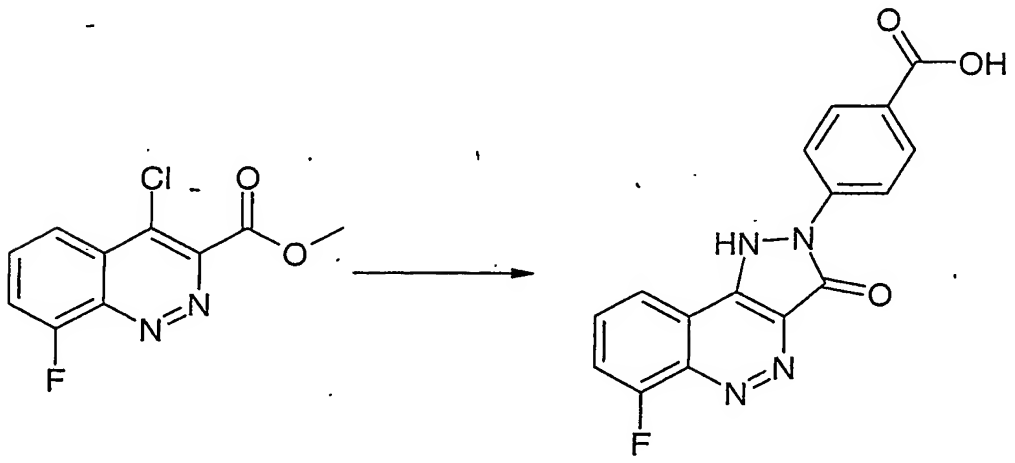


8-Fluoro-4-hydroxycinnoline-3-carboxylate (0.55 g, 2.48 mmol) was dissolved in freshly distilled thionyl chloride (5 ml). The solution was heated to reflux overnight. The reaction was monitored by LC-MS. When no further conversion

was observed excess thionyl chloride was removed under vacuum. The crude product was transferred into the next reaction.

Step 5

Preparation of 4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]cinnolin-2-yl)benzoic acid:



The crude starting material from the previous stage was mixed with 4-hydrazinobenzoic acid (350 mg, 2.30 mmol). Ethanol (10 ml) was added to give a dark red solution. The mixture was stirred to 40°C overnight. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the crude product purified by preparative HPLC.

Results

The use of BIAcore biomolecular interaction analysis

Biotinylated human CD80 (hCD80-BT) is a recombinant soluble form of a membrane bound receptor molecule (CD80) which binds to CD28 to initiate T cell activation. The interaction between CD80 and CD28 has been extensively investigated (Collins et al, 2002). Biotinlyated human HLA-A2-tax is the recombinant soluble form of a membrane bound receptor molecule that has been used in this example as a control protein, and is not expected to interact with the compounds.

The BIAcore S51™ system was used for screening the compounds of Examples 1-4 above. A series S sensor chip CM5 was docked onto the BIAcore S51™. Streptavidin was coupled to the carboxymethyl surface using standard amine coupling. The chip surface was activated with 0.2M EDC / 0.05M NHS, followed by binding of streptavidin (0.25 mg/ml in 10 mM sodium acetate pH 5.0) and saturation of unoccupied sites with 1 M ethylenediamine.

The BIAcore S51 sensor chip has two separate sensor spots for immobilisation of proteins. hCD80-BT was immobilised on the streptavidin-coated surface of one sensor spot until a response of approximately 3000 RU was observed. A protein to control for non-specific binding of the compound was immobilised on a second sensor spot. The control protein used for these experiments was a biotinylated, soluble form of the human HLA protein.

Dilution series of compounds (1000nM – 0.05nM) were prepared in running buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.005% P20; 5% DMSO).

BIAcore S51™ was run at a flow rate of 30 µl/min using running buffer. Compounds and DMSO standard solutions for correction of data for solvent effects were injected. Data were recorded automatically and were analysed using BIAcore S51 Evaluation software.

The interaction between CD80 and the endogenous protein ligand (CD28) is highly specific, but relatively weak, with a K_D of 4750 nM, and an off-rate of greater than 0.2 s^{-1}. The compounds of Examples 1-4 have greater affinity and longer residence times on CD80 than CD28, having K_Ds of less than 100nM, and off-rates of $2x10^{-2}$, indicating that the cinnolines will be able to compete effectively with the endogenous ligand. The cinnolines showed no detectable interaction with the control protein.

References

Collins AV *et al.* (2002) Immunity 17, 201-210 "The interaction properties of costimulatory molecules revisited"

Inhibition of production of interleukin-2 (IL-2) by human Jurkat T cells.

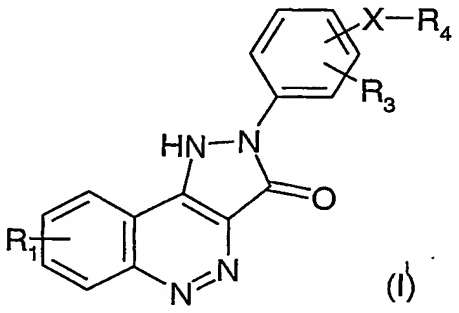
Method

Human Raji cells were dispensed at a concentration of $2x10^5$ cells per well in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% glutamine (RPMI medium) in a 96-well round bottom microtitre plate. Compounds under investigation (dissolved in 100% DMSO) were diluted to eight-fold the desired final concentration in RPMI medium and added to the required final concentration for a total volume of 200µl per well. After 20 minutes incubation at 37°C, Jurkat T cells were added at a concentration of $2x10^5$ cells per well. Monoclonal antibody to CD3 (UCHT1, R&D Systems) was added to the cultures at a final concentration of 1µg per ml, and where indicated, monoclonal antibody to CD28 (CD28.2, BD-Pharmingen) was also added at a concentration of 2.5µg per ml. Cells were cultured at 37°C for 5 hours, after which the plates were centrifuged and the supernatants harvested for IL-2 ELISA assay using the IL-2 Eli-pair kit (DIACLONE Research, Besancon, France) according to the manufacturers instructions.

By way of example, the compound of Example 2 gave 65% inhibition at 30µM.

Claims:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:



(I)

wherein

R_1 and R_3 independently represent H; F; Cl; Br; $-NO_2$; -CN; C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by F or Cl; or C_1-C_6 alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester thereof, or $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$, $-NHC(=O)NR_7R_6$ or $-NHC(=S)NR_7R_6$ wherein

R_6 represents H, or a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m$-Q wherein

m is 0 or 1

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight or branched C_1-C_{12} alkylene, or C_2-C_{12} alkenylene, or C_2-C_{12} alkynylene radical or a divalent C_3-C_{12} carbocyclic radical, any of which radicals may be interrupted by one or more –O-, -S- or $-N(R_8)$- radicals wherein R_8 represents H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_4 alkynyl, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and

Q represents H; $-CF_3$; -OH; -SH; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different, or form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached; an ester group; or an optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclic group; and

R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

X represents a bond or a divalent radical of formula $-(Z)_n$-(Alk)- or -(Alk)-$(Z)_n$- wherein Z represents –O-, -S- or –NH-, Alk is as defined in relation to R_6 and n is 0 or 1.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester group of formula –COOR wherein R is methyl, ethyl n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl, or benzyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R_6 represents a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m$-Q wherein m is 1, Alk is $-CH_2$-, $-CH_2CH_2$-, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$-, or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)CH_2$-, or a divalent cyclopropylene, cyclopentylene or cyclohexylene radical, optionally substituted by OH, oxo, CF_3, methoxy or ethoxy, and Q represents hydrogen; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different and selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or isopropyl or tert-butyl; a methyl, ethyl or benzyl ester; or an optionally substituted phenyl, phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, furyl, thienyl, piperidyl, or piperazinyl group.

4. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_7 represents methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms;

5. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_1 is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_3 is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

7. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is a bond, or a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ radical.

8. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

10. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation,.

11. A method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7.

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